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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/010,118	12/06/2001	James H. James	2001-0079	4809

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EXAMINER	
BHANDARI, PUNEET	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2666	

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/010,118	JAMES, JAMES H.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Puneet Bhandari	2666	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *06 December 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-9* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-9* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *06 December 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claim **3** is objected to because of the following informalities:

Presently claim **3**, depends on claim 3. It is believed by the examiner claim 3 should be dependent on claim 2.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Genter (5,283,784).

Regarding claim **1**, Fig .2 anticipates a method of echo reduction, comprising:

The step of detecting a start of a transmission of communication signals is anticipated by Input signal SI_{in} disclosed in Fig. 2 and also in column 2, lines 19-26.

The limitation attenuating communication signals at the start of transmission to reduce the amplitudes of echo signals prior to echo cancellation is anticipated by attenuation factor determination block 44 of the Echo Canceller shown in Fig 2 that attenuates AAVG to reduce the amplitude SA (echo signal) to coupled junction block that cancels out the echo (signal 500-SA) as disclosed in column 8, lines 8-68 and column 9, lines 1-45.

Regarding claim **2**, the step of setting up a time period is anticipated by average circuit have a similar time constant disclosed in column 7, lines 30-43 and continuing attenuating the communication signals from the start of communication to when the time period expires is anticipated averaging circuit SI_{in} samples that input signal to the attenuation factor determination block 44 which attenuates them accordingly as disclosed in column 7, lines 30-43 and Fig 2.

Regarding claim **3**, the limitation the time period is a predetermined time period is anticipated by "time constant" disclosed in column 7, lines 30-43.

Regarding claim **4**, Fig 3 anticipates the limitation receiving one or more signals (Savg, Eavg, Ravg) from one or more echo cancellers indicating that echo signals are cancelled below a threshold (CCR); and

The limitation continuing attenuating the communication signals from the start of the communication to substantially when the signals from the echo cancellers are received is anticipated averaging circuit SI_{in} samples that input signal to the attenuation factor determination block 44 which attenuates them accordingly as disclosed in column 7, lines 30-43 and Fig 2.

Regarding claim **5**, Fig 3 anticipates the limitation receiving one or more signals (Savg, Eavg, Ravg) from one or more echo cancellers; and

Fig 3 also anticipates the limitation adjusting an attenuation (fast attenuation reduction, fast attenuation increase and slow attenuation reduction) value based on the echo canceller signals to attenuate the communication signals and also disclosed in column 8, lines 8-20.

Regarding claim 6, the limitation providing for one or more attenuation values; and attenuating the communication signals based on the attenuation values is anticipated by attenuating between preset limits as disclosed in column 11, lines 10-22.

Regarding claim 7, the limitation setting the attenuation values based on an estimated effectiveness of the echo cancellers from the start of the communication by attenuating between preset limits which is set at start of communication as disclosed in column 11, lines 10-22.

Regarding claim **8**, Fig .2 anticipates a method of echo reduction, comprising:

The step of detecting a start of communication signals is anticipated by Input signal SI_{in} disclosed in Fig. 2 and also in column 2, lines 19-26.

The limitation attenuating communication signals to reduce the amplitudes of echo signals during a predetermined time period prior to echo cancellation is anticipated by attenuation factor determination block 44 of the Echo Canceller shown in Fig 2 that attenuates AAVG to reduce the amplitude SA (echo signal) during a predetermined time period coupled to a junction block that cancels out the echo (signal 500-SA) as disclosed in column 8, lines 8-68 and column 9, lines 1-45.

Regarding claim **9**, Fig .2 anticipates a method of echo reduction, comprising:

The step of detecting a start of communication signals is anticipated by Input signal SI_{in} disclosed in Fig. 2 and also in column 2, lines 19-26.

Fig 3 anticipates the limitation receiving one or more signals (Savg, Eavg, Ravg) from one or more echo cancellers indicating that echo signals are cancelled below a threshold (CCR)

The limitation attenuating communication signals to reduce the amplitudes of echo signals during a predetermined time period prior to echo cancellation is anticipated by attenuation factor determination block 44 of the Echo Canceller shown in Fig 2 that attenuates AAVG to reduce the amplitude SA (echo signal) during a predetermined time period coupled to a junction block that cancels out the echo (signal 500-SA) as disclosed in column 8, lines 8-68 and column 9, lines 1-45.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Song (US 6,694,019), MaCaslin et al. (US 5,668,794), Kirla (US 6,574,336), Ramesburg et al. (US 6,160,886) and Rasmusson (US 5,475,731).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Puneet Bhandari whose telephone number is 571-272-2057. The examiner can normally be reached on 9.00 AM To 5.30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on 571-272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

pb

Puneet Bhandari
Examiner
Art Unit 2666

DANG TON
PRIMARY EXAMINER